Improvement of higher education

†2220. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the University Grants Commission has felt the need for rendering the standard of education excellent in the field of higher education in the country;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and whether certain schemes for that purpose have been prepared during the Eleventh Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details of the schemes out of those which have already been implemented, and those which are still on paper and have not been implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (c) Improvement of quality of Higher Education is a continuous process. Apart from revamping the on-going schemes aimed at improving the standard of education in the university system, the University Grants Commission (UGC) has initiated a number of new programmes during the 11th Plan broadly covering the areas of Expansion, Inclusion and Excellence. In addition to substantial increase in General Development Grants (Plan) of universities and colleges, special schemes have been designed for the students belonging to the marginalized scheme of society like Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes, Minorities and Women.

The UGC has initiated action in respect of certain new schemes such as Grants for uncovered universities and colleges. Support for upliftment of universities/institutions from National Assessment and Accreditation Council's rating 'B' to 'A' and 'C' to 'B', as the case may be and Modalities for Operationalisation for setting up of 374 degree colleges in such districts where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) is less than national average.

The UGC has also taken up various reforms measures such as introduction of semester system, frequent updating of curricula etc. for improvement of higher education.

Admission and schooling of dyslexic children

2221. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has a special policy guideline for admission and schooling of dyslexic children;

(b) if so, what is the gist thereof;

(c) whether schools are appointing special educators who cater to the needs of dyslexic children; and

(d) whether a study has been made to find out the increasing incidence of suicides being committed by such school-going children?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, the general approach is for inclusive education in schools.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Government is not aware of any such study.

National Institute of Open Schooling

†2222. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of students enrolled at secondary and higher secondary level in the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS);

(b) whether it is being considered to set up Institutes of Open Schooling in other States also, on the lines of National Institute of Open Schooling; and

(c) if so, by when the National Institute of Open Schooling would be set up in Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M.A.A. FATMI): (a) The figures of number of students enrolled in NIOS during 2007-08 at Senior Secondary level are 181395 and 158947 respectively. The corresponding figure for vocational education is 23674. The cumulative enrolment for these three levels are 840941, 616589 and 113937 respectively.

(b) 14 States have established Open Schooling System for their States.

(c) The State Open School for Madhya Pradesh was set up in 1995. NIOS has also set up a Regional Centre at Bhopal to cater to needs of the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

Expansion of NEHU

2223. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans/schemes to provide more departments at the North Eastern Hill University (NEHU); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) According to information furnished by the North Eastern Hill University, Shillong the University has submitted a proposal to the University Grants Commission for starting 19 new courses during the Eleventh plan period. The University Grants Commission (UGC) has informed that the UGC Eleventh Plan Visiting Committee has recommended opening of two new departments namely (i) Journalism and Mass Communication and (ii) Tourism and Hotel Management. The UGC has conveyed the recommendation of the Visiting Committee to the University for intimating its priority.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.